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# Denendeh Planning

July 1990

Volume 1 Number 3

## Community Participation is Key

### Chairperson's Message:

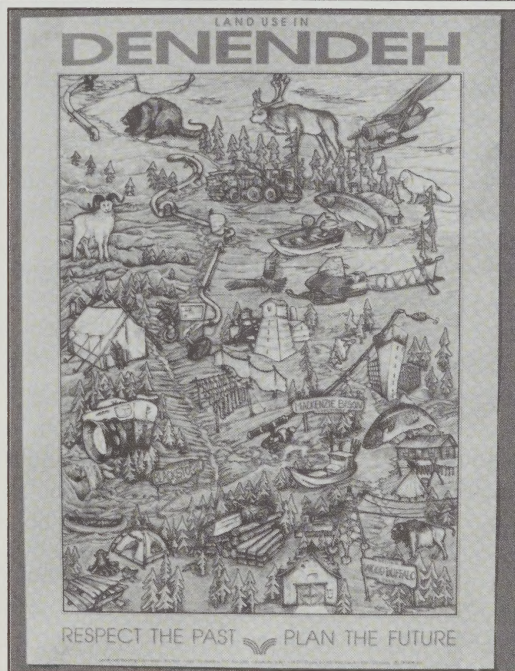
Every organization needs to remain well focused on its goals to achieve success. So it's with great pleasure that I announce our new poster showing the land uses we could expect to find in Denendeh over the next few decades. We think the slogan "Respect the Past, Plan the Future" sums up well the desire of residents to constructively control of their own future. On this page, you will see a photograph of the 18 by 25 inches full-colour poster. The poster is part of a larger effort to raise awareness of land use planning in our region, particularly among those with limited reading skills. Posters are now being distributed to communities, initially to schools and other public organizations.

Community Participation is key to our planning process. Much of this issue is devoted to the activities of Community Working Group (CWG's). Their work will be critical in helping the Commission confirm how land is used now, as well as suggesting how various non-traditional land uses might be accommodated in the future.

Just a reminder, the Commission welcomes your views on present land use, plus ideas on how future users could use land for their purposes with minimal impact on existing residents. We look forward to your comments.

Dave McCann

Chairperson - Denendeh Planning Commission



The Poster

Photo: Joan Campbell

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## Industry/Government Meetings

On May 23rd and 24th, Commission members had a chance to meet and hear from industry land users and government administrators in a two-day session held at the Yellowknife Inn. The intent of the meeting was to hear views from these groups, many of whom are already working on the land or who have certain future projects in mind.

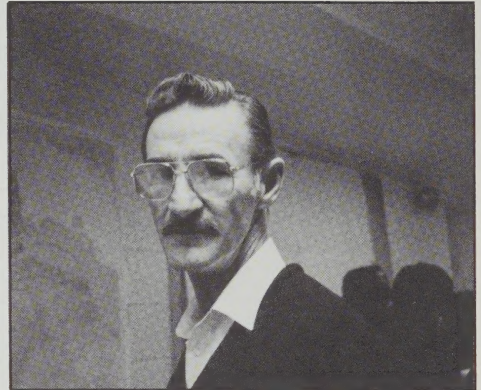
In more specific terms, the Commission wanted to hear views on three main topics:

- 1) Industry/government perspective on present land use.
- 2) What information Industry/governments could contribute to the planning exercise.
- 3) Industry/government expectations of the planning process.

Much high quality information in both text and mapping formats was provided during the sessions. Dave McCann, Chairperson of the Commission, stated "the challenge to the Commission will now be to integrate the best of this information into Commission mapping which we will be taking to community CWG's in the near future."

The Commission recognized that some activities described did not co-incide with the more immediate interests of communities. But there was also a feeling that some of the activities could reflect the longer-term interests of residents for jobs. Desire to work together for a common future was talked about often. "If good intentions expressed were enough" says McCann "there would be no problems. But in real terms we know there will be a lot of trading off within the planning process".

Both days of Industry/government sessions were open to the public.



**Jim Villeneuve - Vice Chairperson**

Photo: Joan Campbell

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## Land Policy Study

Dan McKinnon, a consultant with Public Affairs North 60°, an Ottawa consulting firm, has completed production of a document summarizing all current land policies that might have any impact on planning in the Denendeh region. The 113 page document was produced under contract to the Commission. The size of the document effectively prevents many copies being made. Of course as a public document, anyone is welcome to review a copy of the work left with each regional facilitator, or at the Commission's Yellowknife Offices.

A similar job was done for the neighbouring Nunavut Regional Planning Commission.

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## Facilitator Returns

Our newest facilitator has re-joined the organization: **Violet Camsell** of Rae-Edzo. Violet worked with the Commission in its formative months in 1989, but has recently wrapped up a position as Financial Manager with the Dene Nation. Effective immediately, she will be working closely with the Commissioner for North Slave, **Joe Migwi**.

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## What's it all about?

We're often asked what the Denendeh plan is expected to do, and what force it will have when completed?

From the perspective of the Commission, the plan document which we will pass to the Ministers of government in 1992 will show the best possible land uses for Denendeh land, representing a balance of traditional and industrial uses. The plan should allow for the most important of traditional land uses to continue while also permitting new economic activities to take place. The plan will recognize potential land use conflict where it exists, and attempt to lay out options for compensation where conflict is inevitable. The particular mix of recommendations prepared by the Commission will be based on extensive consultation with all parties and residents.

In terms of its final force, the plan will be a guideline document to be used by land management agencies in the course of their work beyond 1992. The Dene/Metis Final Agreement when completed will create joint management boards which will be responsible for implementing plans. But until that time, existing government agencies will have most responsibility. Because of wide involvement with land users during the plan creation, it is expected that the document will have a powerful influence on all future developments. Future proposed land use schemes which do not conform with the plan may not be permitted or may stimulate further review of the plan.

Overall, the existence of a planning process should mean that the residents of Denendeh will have an increased amount of control over developments in their region.

**Editor's note:** *The above question is raised so often, it was thought useful to repeat this explanation from the second edition.*

***".....the plan.....  
....a balance of  
traditional and  
industrial uses.***

## Denendeh Poster

By early June, copies of the new full-colour poster (sized 18 X 25 inches approximately) referred to in the last newsletter were received from the printer. A photograph of the product appears on the first page of this newsletter. Text phrases are simple but powerful: "Land Use in Denendeh: Respect the Past, Plan the Future". Posters are now being distributed to communities through public organizations. The poster presents visual images of all the possible land uses that will likely be found on the land over the next couple of decades. The poster is part of a larger communication effort to raise awareness of land use planning in Denendeh, particularly among those with limited reading skills.

Anyone wishing to have their own copy of the poster may obtain one as long as supplies last by making a request through their regional facilitator, or through the Commission's Yellowknife office.

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## Regional and Community Workshops:

Colville Lake	TBA
Rae	28 June
Snowdrift	July
Fort Resolution	July
Fort Smith	August
Hay River	August



## C.W.G.'s explained

In the last few months, staff and commission members have been doing a lot of talking about Community Working Groups (CWG's). But what are CWG's? What do they do? How and when will they accomplish their tasks?

In few words, a CWG is the group of individuals in each of the 25 communities of Denendeh focused on providing representative opinion to the commission. In slightly more detailed terms, the CWG's will have two principal roles:

1. verifying mapped land uses brought to the community by Commission staff, including the provision of additional information where necessary
2. supplying informed reaction on the complete range of land use zones and usage conditions that will be mutually developed as part of the plan.

It is expected that the CWG's will normally be a group of about 6 people per community. But there is no hard and fast rule which says that they must always be so. The Commission feels that there is always room for doing things in new ways, especially where the new approach is more effective. All CWG's, however, will be ex-

***CWG's will be the  
prime sounding  
board of community  
opinion....."***



View from Fort Norman

Photo: Joan Campbell

pected to operate within the budget and guidelines established by the Commission.

Point of contact for CWG members will be the Regional Facilitators (described in another article in this newsletter). Staff members from the Commission offices in Yellowknife will periodically travel to the communities to work with CWG's and the Regional facilitators.

Monies have been allocated in the Commission regional budgets to pay CWG members a nominal "per diem" amount to help offset some of the losses of productive time that the members will experience in order to participate in the CWG.

As presently seen by the Commission, a mapping contract laying out local land use will be let with a contractor for each community. The resulting mapping will be examined by the CWG for that community to ensure that it is as accurate as possible. Corrections and amendments to the map will be made as quickly as possible.

CWG's will be the prime sounding board of community opinion on the land planning options jointly prepared by the Commission, CWG's, and Government/Industry groups.



## Spotlight on the South Slave

**Angie Lantz**, facilitator for South Slave, has been making community contacts with many groups on an increasingly regular basis for some months now. Formal meetings have been held in all five communities by the regional facilitation staff with supporting assistance from Yellowknife staff.

Approximately 25 participants from the five South Slave communities attended a regional workshop in Hay River in late March 1990. Topics of interest identified in the meeting focused primarily on aspects of Community Working Group (CWG) composition, roles and responsibilities. Specifics of community activities are as follows:

**Snowdrift:** Initial contact with interested groups was made in February and March, followed by two workshops held in May and June. A third workshop is expected to be held in mid-July after the Dene National Assembly.

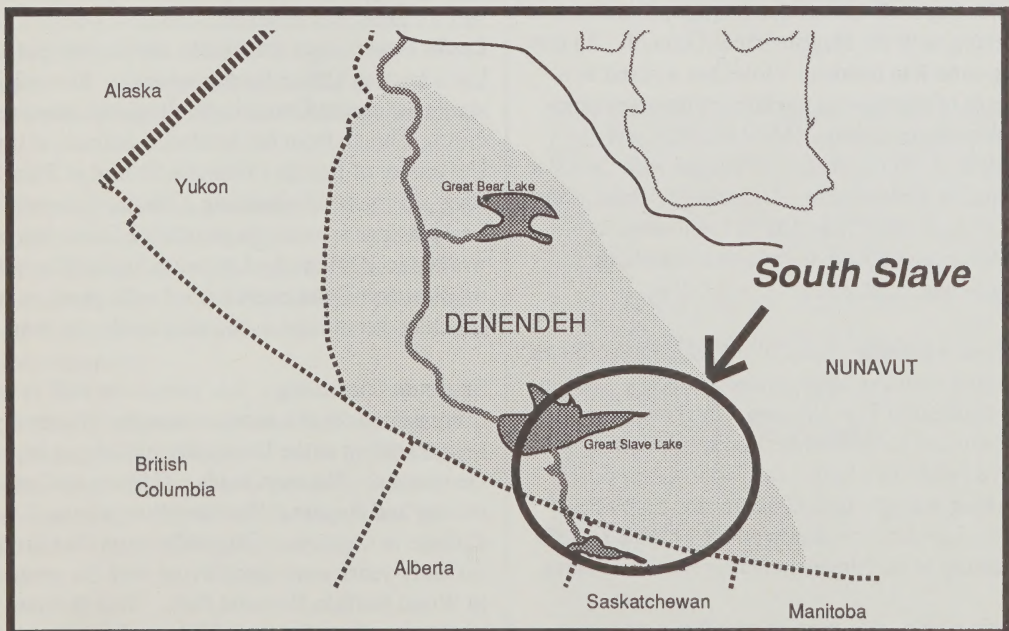
**Fort Smith:** Initial contacts were made in early

June, with future introductory and planning training meetings tentatively set for August and September.

**Fort Resolution:** Community contacts began in February with attendance at Band Council meetings and home visits. An introductory Land Use Planning Meeting took place on May 7, followed by planning session/ training workshop on June 1. A requested second planning session will occur on July 18.

**Hay River/Enterprise:** At the Regional Meeting of community representatives, Hay River/Enterprise delegates identified 9 interest groups who would be invited to send a representative to the initial Land Use Planning Workshop. This workshop was held on June 8 in Hay River. A second workshop is being planned for early August.

A Land Use Planning activities report was made to the South Slave Tribal Council meeting on June 14, 1990 in Fort Smith.



General location of South Slave region in Denendeh

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## Presenting the Regional Staff

As promised in the last edition of the newsletter, we are presenting information on our regional staff: the people at the cutting edge of the planning process. A brief background of each of the members follows:

**Mike Nadli** - Land Use Planning Facilitator working with the Deh Cho Regional Council. Mike presently resides in Fort Simpson. Originally from Zhan-tie Koe (Fort Providence), Mike completed high school in Fort Smith and furthered his education in Victoria, B.C. where he completed his International Baccalaureate studies. Prior to his placement as a regional facilitator, Mike has worked as a Special Needs Assistant for the Elizabeth Ward School; Band Manager Trainee for the Fort Providence Dene Band and Research Assistant for the Native Employment Training Study, University of Calgary. Mike speaks both Slavey and English.

**Violet Camsell** - Land Use Planning Facilitator working with the Dogrib Tribal Council. As a long-time Rae resident, Violet has worked in a variety of managerial positions with many community organizations. Most recently, she worked as Senior Finance Manager with the Dene Nation in Yellowknife. Ultimately, Violet plans returning to the University of Lethbridge to continue her education. Violet speaks both Dogrib and English

**Lorraine Doctor** - Land Use Planning Facilitator working with the Sahtu Tribal Council. Lorraine is a resident of Fort Norman. Previous to working with the Commission, Lorraine was very involved with the Metis Association Local 60 working with the land claim for the Sahtu Region. Lorraine has also worked with the C.B.C. reporting in the Slavey language for a few years.

**Angie Lantz** - was born in the Chipewyan com-

munity of Snowdrift. She received most of her schooling in Fort Smith, another Grandin College graduate. Angie has partially fulfilled requirements towards a bachelor of education degree at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. In the past, she has had a variety of positions as court-worker, youth justice committee member, and researcher on traditional family law in the Western Arctic. Angie has also presented several times on Mediation/Justice Alternatives at Northern Justice Conferences. Angie speaks both Chipewyan and English.

## Staff Changes

**Nick Lawson** - formerly Regional Manager for the Commission will be leaving the Dene-Metis Negotiating Secretariat as this newsletter goes to press. The Commission will therefore lose his very valuable services, although we know that he will be only a telephone call away in GNWT Renewable Resources. Good luck, Nick.

**Leslie Green** - has returned to the Federal Land Use Planning Office for the summer. She will be acting as interim Commission Regional Manager during a break from her academic pursuits at the University of British Columbia School of Planning, where she is obtaining a Master's degree. Leslie brings a broad range of experience, having worked in 1988 on the Lancaster Sound Plan and the Beaufort-Delta exercises. Leslie plans on to conclude her studies in the next academic year.

**Shannon Cumming** - has joined the staff at the Commission for the summer months. Normally, he is a student at the University of Calgary in Geography. Shannon holds a diploma in Community and Regional Planning from Mount Royal College in Calgary. Originally from Fort Smith, his early years were spent living with his parents in Wood Buffalo National Park. This is Shannon's second work term with Land Use Planning.





Land Use Discussion

Photo: Joan Campbell

## Difficult Decisions

Some tough choices were presented to the Commissioners at their last meeting in Yellowknife on the 25th of May.

The Sahtu regional group made a strong case that there were insufficient resources allocated for the participation activities of their regional CWG groups. It was argued that roughly four times as much money was needed to conduct all participation.

While sympathetic to the concerns, Commission members concluded the suggested changes applied to all regions would require considerable expansion in the Commission budget; an unlikely event in the present restrained government spending environment.

Commission members felt that the Dene/Metis Leadership should be alerted to the problem and various approaches to solve the problem. The leadership received a letter from the Commission within a week of its meeting.

Dave McCann, Chairperson of Commission, added: "After suffering a cut to the program last year, we feel it is improbable that extra money will be forthcoming from Senior governments. With our partner organizations, the Commission is going to have to look very hard at doing a broader brushed plan than we had once hoped for. We still believe we can deliver a useful Denendeh plan on time and within budget to the Ministers by 1992 by reducing planning detail.

In an effort to maximize quality planning, Commission staff have recast the budget to shift some monies slated for Commission use towards community data-compilation and participation. Under the new budget, a contract for local mapping will be let for each community, and remaining monies will be made available to the CWG's to help provide a modest honoraria to participants.

Innovative regional approaches to the Commission workplan will be encouraged. Regional facilitators may be contacted for details on how communities may participate in planning activities.

***".....we can  
deliver a useful  
Denendeh plan  
on time and  
within budget.."***

## Feed back!!

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE LAND AND RESOURCE USE IN THE WESTERN NWT?

How do you think that orderly development should best proceed with minimal environmental disruption and maximum benefits to residents?

If you are concerned about these or other related issues then the Denendeh Commission would like to hear from you. If you feel there are certain issues which need to be addressed through land use planning or if you just want to be kept informed about the Commission's activities please fill in the following form and send it to the Commission at the address below.

The Denendeh Planning Commission should address the following issues during the preparation of the Plan:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please add my name to the mailing list:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Community: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cut out this coupon and send to:

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Box 2280  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
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